



Before, During and After Wildfire



What to do **BEFORE** a wildland fire:

- ☐ Adhere to all local fire and building codes and weed abatement ordinances.
- ☐ Use approved fire resistant materials when building, renovating or retrofitting structures. (This is extremely important for roofing materials).
- ☐ Install electrical lines underground if possible.
- ☐ Be sure your house numbers show clearly from the street, both day and night.
- ☐ Create defensible space – separate your home from flammable vegetation and materials (minimum 30' – PRC 4291).
- ☐ Keep all trees and shrub limbs trimmed so they do not come into contact with electrical wires or overhang your chimney. (Do not trim around live powerlines yourself, call a professional).
- ☐ Prune all lower branches 8 feet from the ground.
- ☐ Keep trees adjacent to buildings free of dead or dying branches.
- ☐ Keep roof surfaces clear of pine needles, leaves and debris at all times.
- ☐ Install spark arresters for each chimney (PRC 4291).
- ☐ Clean chimneys and check and maintain spark arresters twice a year.
- ☐ Keep rain gutters clear of debris at all times.
- ☐ Store combustible or flammable materials in approved containers.
- ☐ Stack firewood away from your home and other buildings. (Keep clearance around your piles).
- ☐ Store all important papers in a fireproof container or keep copies at another location.
- ☐ Make evacuation plans with family members. Include several options with an outside meeting place and contact person. Practice regularly.
- ☐ Keep battery operated radios and flashlights with additional fresh batteries on hand.



What to do DURING a wildland fire:

- ☐ Turn on a battery operated radio to get latest emergency information.
- ☐ If you have a ladder, prop it against the house so you and firefighters have access to roof.
- ☐ If hoses and adequate water are available set them up. Fill buckets with water.
- ☐ Remove combustible materials from the area surrounding your house. (Lawn chairs, tables, etc.)
- ☐ Turn a light on in each room for visibility in case of smoke.
- ☐ Close all doors and windows, but do not lock them.
- ☐ Open or take down flammable drape and curtains.
- ☐ Close all Venetian blinds and non-flammable window coverings.
- ☐ Move upholstered furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors.
- ☐ Be ready to evacuate all family members and pets when requested to do so.
- ☐ Turn off air conditioning/air circulation systems.
- ☐ Detach electrical garage doors. Back in your car and leave the keys in the ignition.
- ☐ Secure your pets if possible.



What to do AFTER a wildland fire:

- ☐ Check with fire officials before attempting to return to your home.
- ☐ Use caution when re-entering a burned area...flare-ups can occur.
- ☐ Check grounds for "hot spots" – smoldering stumps and vegetation. Use your buckets of water.
- ☐ Check the roof and exterior areas for sparks and embers.
- ☐ Check the attic and throughout the house for hidden burning sparks and embers.
- ☐ Continue to check for problem areas for several days.
- ☐ Contact 9-1-1 if any danger is perceived.
- ☐ If burning outside your home was extensive watch for soil erosion. Consult local experts on the best way to restore and re-plant your land with fire safe landscaping.

